

CLAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

8:30 a.m.

County Board Room – 3rd Floor – Courthouse

M I N U T E S

The Clay County Board of Commissioners met in regular session with all Commissioners present: Campbell, Evert, Ingersoll, Waller and Weyland. County Administrator Brian C. Berg and Senior Administrative Assistant Vicki Reek were also present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Evert, seconded by Waller, and unanimously carried, the agenda was approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF JUVENILE CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CONCERNING 2010 SURPLUS FUNDS

By consent agenda, the Board approved Juvenile Center Advisory Committee recommendations made at the August 2, 2011 County Board meeting concerning the use of 2010 surplus funds in the Juvenile Center operations, as follows:

- Repayment to Clay County of \$23,031 for funds the County expended to cover debt from 2009 (per a pre-existing agreement among the participating counties)
- \$37,000 to reduce 2012 bed costs for all member counties

This action corrects the oversight that a formal motion was not made concerning this matter at the August 2, 2011 County Board meeting.

AWARD HEATING/COOLING PROJECT IN JUVENILE CENTER TO TRANE

By consent agenda, the Board approved the low quote of Trane (\$45,900) for a heating/cooling project in the Juvenile Center, for which \$31,333.33 will be paid from 2010 surplus funds in the Juvenile Center, and the remainder paid from the newly established Capital Improvement Fund. \$3333 for related electrician fees will come from the 2011 Juvenile Center budget.

This action corrects the oversight that a formal motion was not made concerning this matter at the August 2, 2011 County Board meeting.

APPOINTMENT TO LAKE AGASSIZ REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD

By consent agenda, the Board appointed Ms. Wendy Ward, Barnesville, MN to a three-year term (2012-2014) on the Lake Agassiz Regional Library Board to fill a vacancy for a Clay County representative.

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR TIGER GRANT FUNDS FOR CSAH 52

By consent agenda, the Board authorized execution of a letter of support for Clay County to receive Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant funds to complete the CSAH 52 construction project.

APPROVAL TO WRITE-OFF NON-SUFFICIENT FUNDS CHECK RECEIVED
IN RECORDER'S OFFICE

By consent agenda, the Board approved writing off a Non-Sufficient Funds check in the amount of \$26.00 which was written to the Recorder's Office in August, 2010 by Anthony L. Eychaner.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens present who wished to address the Board.

APPROVAL TO FILL DEPUTY SHERIFF VACANCY

Sheriff Bill Bergquist informed the Board that Deputy Richard Norwig will retire June 30, 2012. Sheriff Bergquist was hopeful that the hiring process for this position could begin at this time to allow training to coincide with training for the new Deputy for security. Human Resources Director Darren Brooke commented that with the delay in hiring the Deputy for security, the funds saved will cover the expenditure for overlap for Deputy Norwig's position.

On motion by Ingersoll, seconded by Waller, and unanimously carried, the Board approved filling the vacancy to be created by Deputy Norwig's retirement.

RECOGNITION OF ENGINEERING TECHNICIANS FOR NATIONAL ASPHALT PAVEMENT
ASSOCIATION PAVING AWARD FOR CSAH 10 PROJECT

Mr. Brian Bernstrom and Mr. Seth Pfeifer, Engineering Technicians with the Highway Department, were recognized for their part in Clay County receiving the National Asphalt Pavement Association's Paving Award "Outstanding Achievement in Construction" for the CSAH 10 project in 2011.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT PURCHASE REQUEST

County Engineer David Overbo requested the Board's authorization to replace four 15' rotary mowers per RDO's low quote of \$30,450 (trade-in value of four rotary mowers - \$28,750). He also requested approval to trade in three disc mowers towards the purchase of a new disc mower. Adkins Equipment provided the low quote of \$6,450 (trade-in value of three disc mowers - \$2800). These proposed purchases were reviewed by the Highway Tracking Committee and approved.

On motion by Campbell, seconded by Evert, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the equipment purchases as described above.

TOWNSHIP BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT FUNDING

County Engineer David Overbo requested that discussion on this topic be postponed to a later date.

ANNUAL TRUCK OVERWEIGHT PERMIT REQUEST

On motion by Evert, seconded by Waller, and unanimously carried, the Board approved an Overweight Permit for Logan Langerud for 1.5 miles of CSAH 27 to CSAH 26 for his hog operation.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF LAKESWIND TAMARAC 115KV TRANSMISSION LINE

Planning & Environmental Programs Director Tim Magnusson informed the Board that he has not yet received a response from the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) regarding their approval of Clay County as local review authority for the Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Lakeswind project. He is in the process of reviewing a new draft of the EA which is to include corrections he has previously suggested.

This topic will be placed on a future agenda once a response is received from the PUC. Mr. Magnusson will also address concerns for the Lakeswind project which have been forwarded by Dr. Per Anderson and others.

APPOINTMENTS TO WILD RICE WATERSHED DISTRICT BOARD OF MANAGERS

At the March 13, 2012 meeting, the County Board interviewed two candidates for two positions on the Wild Rice Watershed District (WRWD) Board of Managers, Mr. John Austinson and Mr. Duane Erickson. Mr. Austinson and Mr. Erickson were appointed by Clay County and have held manager positions on the WRWD for the past three years. At the conclusion of the interviews, the Board decided to wait one week to make the formal appointments to allow for input from citizens.

Mr. Richard Smith urged the Board to retain the current Board members and felt both Becker and Clay need representation. He added that there are projects in the works and citizens have very good access to their representatives on the WRWD Board.

Mr. Jim Jerava felt Mr. Erickson should be reappointed to the WRWD Board as he looks at both sides of issues and is concerned for taxpayers.

Mr. Bill Zurn felt a representative from Becker County should be retained because Becker has a fair amount of land in the WRWD. He felt Mr. Erickson represents the citizens well.

Mr. Mike Splonskowski felt Mr. Erickson should be reappointed to keep Becker County represented.

Mr. Dave Stumbo urged the Board to keep Mr. Erickson on the WRWD Board as he researches issues and gives 100%.

Mr. Kim Severson expressed support for both candidates.

Commissioner Evert expressed his appreciation for the input and added that it is a 'given' that a Becker County representative will be appointed. He felt there should be more work by the WRWD towards major retention.

An email from Becker County Commissioner Barry Nelson was entered into the record indicating Becker's support of the reappointment of Mr. Duane Erickson.

Mr. Duane Erickson was present and commented that it has been a struggle to get a consensus on the WRWD Board. He felt it will be important to get both small and major projects to move forward with the best cost/benefit ratios. He felt WRP RIM projects should be used for water retention with a slow draw down.

Commissioner Waller expressed observations regarding the lack of projects in the WRWD, especially for the Upper Becker project, which could store water vertically for the least amount of impact. He noted that there is activity in the WRWD with the Braseth wetlands, Moccasin Creek, and Borup site, but no projects. He added that in a review of the entire Basin, only the North Ottawa is a functional watershed retention project, so the WRWD is not the only watershed struggling with projects.

Commissioner Campbell noted that other watersheds are farther along with projects to create retention areas. He felt the FM Diversion project could be scaled back if significant permanent retention areas are developed. He supported the reappointment of Mr. Erickson to the WRWD Board of Managers.

On motion by Ingersoll, seconded by Waller, and unanimously carried, the Board reappointed Mr. John Austinson (Clay County representative) and Mr. Duane Erickson (Becker County representative) to three year terms on the WRWD Board of Managers.

County Administrator Brian Berg suggested that Mr. Austinson and Mr. Erickson meet with the County Board annually to provide an update regarding activities in the WRWD.

APPROVAL OF BILLS AND VOUCHERS

On motion by Evert, seconded by Campbell, and unanimously carried, the bills and vouchers were approved for payment.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

Commissioner Evert attended meetings of the Clay Wilkin Community Board of Health, Historical & Cultural Society, Audit/Investment Committee, and AMC Legislative Steering Committee.

Commissioner Ingersoll attended meetings of the Clay Wilkin Community Board of Health, Children's Mental Health Advisory Committee, Family Healthcare, MetroCOG, and Lake Agassiz Regional Library.

Commissioner Waller attended meetings of MetroCOG and the Clay County Township Officers.

Commissioner Campbell attended meetings of the Extension Committee and FM Diversion with Wilkin & Richland Counties.

Commissioner Weyland attended meetings of Clay Wilkin Community Health Board, Land of the Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging, and Audit/Investment Committee.

County Administrator Brian Berg informed the Board that he has been working with department heads concerning new programming, pending legislation regarding the appointive Auditor/Treasurer position, and the vacant Assessor position. He attended FM Diversion meetings, and the Township Officers meeting. He reminded the Board that the June 8 AMC District Meeting will be held in Moorhead at the Courtyard by Marriott.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Grant Weyland, Chair
Clay County Board of Commissioners

Brian C. Berg, County Administrator